



Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division

Frequently asked questions about the pesticide examination process

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	Question	Answer
1	How much does an exam cost?	<p>The application fee, which covers the costs of the exam(s), depends upon the type of certification:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Private (agricultural use): \$50 2) Commercial: \$75 3) Registered (core only): \$45 <p>Applications are available at the exam site or you can download and print a copy by clicking here.</p>
2	How long is my application good for?	<p><u>Initial application</u>: 6 months from application date.</p> <p><u>Renewal application</u>: December 31 of year following year of expiration</p>
3	Do I need to order a new manual?	<p>Click here to see the chart for most recent manual updates. If your manual is dated before that date, you should obtain a new manual. The chart also includes instructions on how to obtain study manuals.</p>
4	I lost my renewal notice. What do I do?	<p>You can still schedule your exam session with the online system. The proctors will either print out a duplicate renewal notice at the site or provide you a blank renewal notice. If there are more than 7 business days before your exam, you can send an e-mail to MDA-Info@michigan.gov to request a duplicate renewal packet. Include your name, address, phone number, and certification number.</p>
5	What is a registered applicator?	<p>A registered applicator is an individual that has taken and passed the commercial core exam and attended an MDA approved registered applicator training program conducted by an approved trainer. A registered applicator credential is not considered complete until the applicator has passed the commercial core and the approved trainer has signed the application indicating the applicator has received the required training.</p>
6	Do I pay a separate amount for each category?	<p>No; your application fee covers all categories/standards requested on the original application.</p>

7	How many questions are on the exam(s)?	Most exams have 75 questions. Several have 100 or 125, a few have only 50 questions.
8	How long does the exam take to complete?	Generally, each exam (those with 75 questions or less) will take about an hour for most applicants.
9	Are the exams open book?	No.
10	What type of exam is it?	Exams are multiple choice.
11	Is the exam timed?	No, the exam is not timed. However, you must complete the exam before the end of the exam session.
12	How soon will I find out if I passed?	At most sessions, exams are electronically scored at the time you take your exam.
13	If I fail an exam, do I have to pay again?	<p>No. However, on an initial application, you must complete all of the requirements within 6 months.</p> <p>On a renewal application, you must complete all of the requirements before December 31 of the following year (i.e. for certifications expiring 12/31/2010, you must complete the requirements before 12/31/2011).</p> <p>Note: There is no grace period for purchasing restricted use pesticides or applying pesticides as part of your work duties after a credential expires. If you do not pass the exam(s), review your status with the exam proctor before leaving the exam session.</p>
14	I heard that there is a combination exam for some categories. What does that mean?	<p>Combination exams are available so applicators can take one test and get certified in more than one category.</p> <p>IMPORTANT: Combo exams do not include the Core exam.</p> <p>Three (3) combo exam are available:</p> <p>Combo exam 1J combines categories 1A (row crop) and 1B (vegetable crop).</p> <p>Combo exam 6J combines categories 3A (turf), 3B (ornamental) and 6 (right-of-way).</p> <p>Combo exam 7J combines categories 7A (general pest) and 7B (wood destroying organisms).</p> <p>The proctors at the exam site will explain the combo exams in more detail.</p> <p>Note: A combo exam has more questions than a single category exam, but fewer questions than the sum of each category if taken separately.</p>

15	I want to start my own business. Do I need any other licenses in addition to passing the exams?	Before a business holds themselves out to the public as being in the business of applying pesticides for hire, the business must first obtain a commercial pesticide applicator business license. Contact the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development Central Licensing Unit at 517-241-6666 to start the process.
16	Can extra recertification credits from this renewal be rolled over into the next renewal?	No. Credits are valid only for the renewal cycle with this expiration date.
17	If my credential expired last year, can I earn credits this year to renew by seminar?	No; all credits must be earned before the credential expires.
18	Can I renew some categories by credit and some by exam.	Yes. Do not mail in the renewal notice; take it to the exam session with your fee.
19	I heard that in 2010, MDA changed how the seminar credits for renewal were calculated? How do I check on my credits?	Applicators should send an e-mail to MDA-Info@michigan.gov to obtain a copy of their seminar credit report. Include your name, address, phone number, and certification number.
20	For State of Michigan or Federal employees, how does interdepartmental billing work?	When an applicator employed by the State of Michigan applies for certification, the exam proctor marks the application for interdepartmental billing and the Lansing office will bill the applicant's respective state agency. Federal employees are exempt from certification fees for credentials required for duties associated with their employment.